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Agricultural Education



Donald B. Gantz, American Farmer,
Washington, Pennsylvania

(See Editorial Comment)

*The interest is always a sign of some power below;
the important thing is to discover this power. To hu-
mor the interest is to fail to penetrate below the sur-
face, and its sure result is to substitute caprice and
whim for genuine interest.—John Dewey.*

EDITORIAL COMMENT

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THE A. V. A. MEETING

LARGE attendance and high morale characterized the annual convention of the American Vocational Association held December 5-8 at Pittsburgh.

The enthusiasm of the convention was supported by such tangibles as these:

1. The largest A. V. A. membership in the history of the organization (more than 11,000).
2. The availability of the most federal funds ever provided for vocational education, due to the enactment of the George-Ellzey Act and the removal of the 25 per cent cut in previous appropriations.
3. The rapid growth of the program during the past year. Nearly 600 departments of vocational agriculture have been added this year, bringing the total to approximately 5,200 in the United States.
4. The strong support of general educators. The largest number of state superintendents ever to attend the A. V. A. meeting was in attendance at Pittsburgh.
5. The equally strong support of lay groups. Mr. L. J. Taber, Master of the National Grange, appeared before the convention to proclaim in no uncertain terms the support of 8,000 local granges. Mr. Phillip Murray, second vice president of the American Federation of Labor, promised with equal certainty the support of 5,000,000 members of his organization.

The outstanding theme of the convention, in agricultural and industrial sections alike, was the education of out-of-school youth. For the first time, rural social considerations had a prominent part in the agricultural section.

Next year's meeting will be held at Chicago or Cincinnati.—H. M. H.

A. V. A. PAPERS IN THIS ISSUE

WE ARE fortunate in being able to publish in this issue of the magazine a few of the outstanding addresses presented at the recent meeting of the American Vocational Association in Pittsburgh. Other outstanding papers will be included in the March issue.

The first address in this issue is that of M. L. Wilson, assistant secretary of agriculture. Every teacher of agriculture should be interested in this presentation of the philosophy of the New Deal in its relation to agriculture. No man is more capable of speaking on this subject than is Mr. Wilson. He gives us in this address what it would take volumes of reading to get.

Mr. Wilson's address at Pittsburgh was followed by an address by Dr. Walter S. Newman, supervisor of agricultural education for Virginia, on "The Function of Vocational Agriculture in the New Deal." Dr. Newman's address evoked much favorable comment. We are presenting it because we feel that it is a contribution to agricultural education.

Much more was said about the out-of-school youth at Pittsburgh than in any previous meeting of the A. V. A. We have gone rather strong on the Part-time Section in this issue of the magazine. We begin with the address of Dr. T. B. Manny of the United States Department of Agriculture, on "Characteristics and Needs of Rural Youth in the 16-24 Year Age Group." Here again, a master deals with the subject and gives us a paper chuck full of information, philosophy, and points of view. This paper, like the others, had to be shortened slightly for publication.

Then, there is a summary of the panel discussion on out-of-school farm youth. Those who took part in the panel were: W. A. Ross of Washington, D. C.; K. L. Holloway of Arkansas; J. H. McPhee of California; Bobby Jones of Ohio; D. M. Clements of Tennessee; F. J. Rubel of Ohio; L. R. Larson of Wisconsin; R. A. Olney of West Virginia; and J. H. Pearson of Washington, D. C.

Part of an A. V. A. address on "Part-time Classes in Agriculture," by C. L. Angerer of Missouri is appearing in this issue. This paper was presented before the state supervisors. Only the part of special interest to teachers of agriculture is included in this article.

OUR COVER

OUR series of cover pictures of early American Farmers closed with the October issue. As with this February cover picture, we may present other American Farmers from time to time.

Donald B. Gantz, Washington, Pennsylvania, was one of the first to become interested in the work of the Future Farmers of America. When the Keystone Organization was effected, Donald was instrumental in having his school apply for one of the first charters. His work in the local chapter advanced him through the various degrees, until the fall of 1931, when he received the degree of American Farmer. He became an active worker in the national organization, serving as third vice-president and as a member of the executive committee.

Donald, during his high school days, was recognized in the community and school as a leader of ability. This acceptance was granted by the other chapters throughout the state—the attitude being that "Don" was a logical candidate for the degree of American Farmer. His farm practice work was outstanding, his herd of sheep being developed into one of the best in the community.

Gantz's project work brought a close farming relationship with his father, making for an understanding that developed into a partnership—a partnership where the boy's ideas were accepted, and the work carried on in a truly business-like manner. They are now engaged in making more improvements on their 170-acre farm. The farm is located four miles from the city of Washington, Pennsylvania, on a state road. Many improvements have been made, and the home now represents a modern farm—electricity for the house and barn, furnace heat, bathroom, sun parlor, radio, modern stables and milk house. The lawn is well kept, and the general appearance from the highway suggests what is taking place—a farm managed to make a desirable home and a fair profit. The profits have enabled them to make additional improvements, buy a new car, and add to the bank account.

The greatest change in farming since Donald completed his high school work has been the increase in the size of the dairy herd. They now have 45 head of Guernsey cattle. Other farm activities include: 30 head of sheep,

(Continued on page 128)



Professional



The Philosophy of the New Deal in It's Relation to American Agriculture¹

M. L. WILSON, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

MOST of us have vivid memories of 1932, — when 400,000,000 bushels of wheat, a full crop of cotton, and two to three crops of tobacco were backed up on the farms and in the terminal markets and warehouses. We had 12-cent corn, and the large supplies of hogs and cattle could be sold only at ridiculously low prices. Farm products, on the average, exchanged then for only 53 percent as much non-agricultural products as during the period 1909-1914. Debts contracted when this purchasing power was above the pre-war level simply could not be paid unless radical changes occurred that would at least practically restore the pre-war level. The collapse of farm prices under the weight of huge surpluses not only bankrupted thousands of farmers and threatened to bankrupt the rest, but also helped to undermine the foundations of American business.

A description of the complex and cumulative causes of the situation in which we found ourselves in 1932 is but a description of the upheaval in world affairs produced by the World War and of post-war policies followed by this and other leading nations. The more obvious effect was the loss of our export market for agricultural products and the enormous contraction of farm purchasing power as compared with that of highly organized industrial, business, and labor groups.

It was in the face of this situation that congress, through the Agricultural Adjustment Act of May, 1933, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to set up and administer a plan of action designed to restore to farmers the pre-war purchasing power of the domestically consumed portion of their basic crops. The plan included a democratic method of farmer-adjustment of production to effective demand. To make it possible for individual farmers to adjust their production, the plan provided for the distribution of benefit payments derived from taxes collected from processors.

Since the War, various governments have tried price-raising measures for certain agricultural commodities, unaccompanied by production control. Notorious examples are those of Brazil for coffee and of Japan for silk. The inevitable result was increased supplies to aggravate an already bad situation.

Confronted with this experience, our government has included production control as an important part of its farm-income-raising plan.

When this plan was being debated in congress, its opponents said that it was economically sound in principle but administratively unworkable. I have preserved a brief, written by a group of honest and intelligent opponents, in which are listed 22 reasons why adjustment contracts and pro-



M. L. Wilson

cessing taxes could not be administered. Among other things, the brief said that farmers would not tell the truth about their past production, and for this reason it would be impossible to establish individual allotments.

What is the actual record of 18 months of experimentation with the Act? I would be the last to contend that a miracle has been performed and that absolute perfection has been attained in everything done. We had to experiment with a technique that had never been applied before, but the vast program has been carried out in a manner which is a credit to all concerned.

Four million cooperative production-control contracts have been signed by approximately three million farmers. Five and a half million checks, for a total of a half billion dollars, have been mailed to these farmers. Marketing agreements and licenses applying to more than sixty commodities are now

in effect or pending, in all but three states. In 1934 between thirty and forty million acres were retired from the production of crops of which there were surpluses. This gigantic task has been accomplished through democratic machinery. Approximately five thousand county production-control associations with about thirty thousand active county committeemen and about a hundred thousand community committeemen made the individual farm allotments and administered the program within the counties.

To complicate the program in 1934, nature stepped in with a ruthless hand and cut production in a manner which was not anticipated.

So much for past performance. We have now reached the point where we should weigh and interpret the valuable experience of the past 18 months, —where we should be asking ourselves what should be the future course of agricultural adjustment. Despite the fact that we have already traveled far, our situation is much like that of a ship making a voyage. The ship corresponds to the farms of the United States, the nation's land and agricultural production plant. It is a good strong ship. The crew corresponds to the six million farmers of America. Most of them know the ship thoroughly. A few of them, but a mighty few, don't know a great deal about it and probably don't have much interest in where they are going.

Besides the ship and the crew, the winds and the ocean currents are important factors determining whether we reach port. These winds and currents are a complex of changing national and international economic conditions. Members of the crew can't climb a mast and by shooting fire-crackers into the air or by yelling loudly change the currents and winds. To try to do so would be to head the ship out to sea and permit the winds and currents to determine its destination.

Our farm crew, in this analogy, can follow such a policy of drift, which was very much the policy we had before 1933. It can say, as many then said: "The wind and the currents are Nature's laws, and man would regiment himself and accomplish nothing if he tried to adjust himself to them." But I don't believe the farmers want to go back to 1932 and earlier years, and I don't believe the farmers want to say that as the crew of this ship they want to submit blindly to the winds and currents while they have intelligence

1. An address delivered before the Agricultural Section of the American Vocational Association at Pittsburgh, December 6.

and energy to do otherwise. They realize that while they condemn the winds and currents they cannot abolish them. But they believe they can learn to understand them, measure them, and make adjustments to them, exactly as the crews of sailing ships have learned to do.

THIS calls for collective action. And, just as in the case of planning a voyage, we cannot predict far in advance the exact nature of the winds and currents and some of the conditions that must be met from day to day. The important thing is to have a technique and an understanding with which to meet these conditions as they arise.

I am reminded of an address by James J. Hill, the railroad builder of the Northwest, which received wide notice after he made it at the Minnesota State Fair in 1906.

Hill attempted to peer into the future. He estimated that we would have a population of about two hundred million people in this country by 1950, and he was alarmed because of his belief that the farms of the nation would be unable to supply the required agricultural products for such a large population. He advocated a doubling and tripling of agricultural production, and he reasoned that a doubling and tripling of agricultural income would follow inevitably. Hill's viewpoint was pretty much our national policy with respect to agriculture between 1906 and 1920, if we can be said to have had a national policy for agriculture during that time. Prospects now are, however, that by 1950 we shall have very nearly reached a stationary population of one hundred and fifty million, instead of two hundred million, and that we shall have the ability to produce then, as now, in excess of our requirements.

IN determining the future agricultural policy of the nation, we are confronted by a number of stubborn realities, most of them looking to the future but growing out of past policies. No one, no matter what his gifts of prophecy, can state today with reasonably accuracy how much pork, wheat, cotton, tobacco, or other products we are going to export in 1935 or 1936. We are even less capable of estimating what these exports will be in the more distant future.

Economic nationalism is rampant throughout the world. Most nations, through tariffs and other trade barriers, are trying to be as self-sufficient as possible. In the midst of this international situation we find ourselves changed from a debtor to a creditor nation.

Circumstances before the World War made us a debtor nation, while developments since that time have made us a creditor nation. After our Civil War, Europeans found this country, with its great undeveloped resources, one of the safest places to invest their savings. Railroads and other major developments were financed with foreign funds. If you trace the history of our country from the Civil War to the World War, you will find that our ex-

ports of agricultural products rose continually and were almost equal, from year to year, to the interest on our debts to European investors. This provided one of the most natural trade currents the world has ever seen. At the end of the World War, instead of our owing Europe one hundred million dollars in interest at the end of each year, Europe was obligated through war loans to pay us annually five hundred million dollars in interest,—which she could pay only by sending us either gold or goods. We closed our gates to her goods and continued to lend her gold with which to pay the interest due us. It was inevitable that this arrangement should collapse. We are now getting neither gold nor goods. International trade is demoralized.

I do not know how this deadlock will be broken but I am certain that the kind of economic policies which worked well before the World War will work badly under current economic nationalism. Fundamentally, there are three directions open to us with respect to exports. We may seek a maximum of international trade, we may renounce international trade, and we may follow a middle course between the two.

WE are now following the middle course. We hope that we can regain our foreign markets. We hope that, should we regain them, we shall be able to find new places in industry for those who would be displaced by the importation of goods from Europe in exchange for the surplus product of our farms. Such a program would result in a rising standard of living throughout the world, and would provide an improved international situation conducive to still greater international trade as time goes on.

If, on the other hand, we are going to face a stone wall of continuously growing nationalism, we are not going to be able to increase our exports and we are going to face eventually the task of taking out of production the land now devoted to the production of crops for export. It is estimated that we may have to retire as much as forty to fifty million acres of our better farm land in order to effect this adjustment. That would be a painful process.

The situation requiring a choice between internationalism, rationalism, and a middle course is little understood in our national life today. I estimate, and I believe conservatively, that 90 percent of the criticism of the adjustment efforts have come from those who do not understand at all the facts of this situation. I am further convinced that the percentage does not run as high with farmers but that a large proportion of farmers do not have an understanding of this.

IF we are going to prepare ourselves for the present tendency toward economic nationalism, and if we are going to meet the situation by democratic processes, it will be necessary for farmers, as well as the public generally, to have a thorough understanding of the conditions. An economic democracy among farmers has to be built upon a

common understanding by farmers of the problems with which they are attempting to deal.

Every successful cooperative movement has resolved about a common appreciation among members of the things their organization attempted to do. I hope that the leadership which has emerged from the farmers themselves in the adjustment movement, the members of farm organizations, the county control associations, the community groups, and everyone who has an interest in achieving a better farm life will continue to discuss and debate this whole question until the farmers generally understand it.

Besides the question of our foreign markets we shall have to consider the relationship of agriculture to other economic interests of our own nation from the broad viewpoint of national economy. When Hill advocated continuously increasing agricultural production, he gave no consideration to the probable relationship of farm prices to the prices of goods farmers buy. No consideration was given because it was assumed that this relationship would take care of itself and no consideration was needed. But the fact is that farm prices and the prices of most things farmers buy are determined in such entirely different ways that to ignore these differences is to invite disturbances in the national economy.

Farm prices have been left largely to the free competition of the open market place. It has been assumed that the law of supply and demand would work out fairly and satisfactorily in the case of farm products. Many years ago, when our economic system was much more simple than it is today, both agricultural and industrial price fluctuations were largely in response to the forces of an open and free market, but the modern industrial organization has changed all this. In one industry after another free competitive price-making has been practically eliminated, and for a large number of industrial products it is no longer true that prices are determined by the free and unhampered operation of the law of supply and demand.

IT is now widely recognized that agriculture, operated on an individual family basis, does not respond to lower prices or slackened demand as does industry—by curtailing production. The farmer is his own employer, for the most part, and he can do little to reduce his costs by discharging his labor price. Moreover, his fixed charges are heavy, and his inclination is to continue producing despite low prices. Industry, on the other hand, cuts its pay rolls; and this performance is just as important a factor in economic changes affecting agriculture as in the loss of foreign markets.

Between 1929 and 1933 average prices of agricultural products fell 63 percent, while production was reduced only 6 percent. By way of contrast, prices of agricultural machinery fell 6 percent, while production was reduced 60 percent. Prices of motor vehicles fell 16 percent, while production was reduced 80 percent. In the case of ce-

ment, prices were reduced 18 percent and production 65 percent. Prices of iron and steel fell only 20 percent, but production was curtailed 83 percent.

You will notice that farm prices were as putty in response to market forces, but the prices of non-agricultural products showed great resistance. This is due to the fact that for more than a century business groups through collective action have been gradually substituting what they regard as fair competition for the classical ideal of free competition, while agriculture has continued substantially on a free competitive basis. Business has not abolished the law of supply and demand; it has adapted it to its own purposes. Would business be willing to return to free or "kill 'em and eat 'em" competition, or will it insist upon its fair or "live and let live" competition? There are no indications of any tendency for business to return to free competition. Evidence multiplies, on the other hand, to support the view that its collective power will be strengthened even if it should become more amenable to the influence of government.

For my part, I can see no reason why business should give up its collective controls; but if it does not and should not do so, there is no alternative for agriculture except to master this technique for its own protection, unless it wants to lapse into a sort of exploited peasant economy. In the interest of the national economy, both groups should either act collectively or neither should do so.

ACCORDING to classical doctrine, the law of supply and demand, if allowed to operate under a regime of free competition, would in the long run so proportion the man power of the nation among the various lines of productive activity that the nation as a whole would attain the highest possible standard of living consistent with the existing knowledge of technology. There are at least two things wrong with this doctrine. In the long run we are all dead, and in the meantime a significant part of our producers refuses to practice free competition. If somehow we could get the wheat producers who are growing wheat that nobody wants, to build houses, make bath-tubs, and a thousand other things that people do want, the standard of living of the community as a whole would be higher. According to the classical doctrine, low prices of wheat and high prices of bath-tubs are the forces that could be relied upon to bring about the adjustment. But as a matter of cold fact, wheat growers don't move readily, manufacturers don't compete freely, and during the interval required for the theoretical adjustment (even if it should occur eventually) human lives and hopes worth saving would be blasted.

Proponents of the agricultural adjustment are sometimes vigorously criticised on the ground that they are preventing the production of wealth. The answer to this argument is simply that agriculture can and will produce all the food and fiber that can be con-

sumed by those in a position to offer a reasonable amount of non-agricultural goods in return, but that it is not the duty of the farmer, any more than it is the duty of other groups, to work for nothing. Under the law of supply and demand a large crop may be worth less in the aggregate than a smaller crop. In such an event the producer suffers unreasonably because a portion of his production was not wanted at a reasonable price.

There are those who think we can return to a simple competitive society where the function of the government would be largely that of an educator and policeman. Industry and labor would be forced to give up its habits of collective action. To those who hold this view I can only say that history will give them no comfort.

AS to the future of agricultural adjustment in the United States, I do not believe that farmers will want to give it up, and I believe that it is likely to develop through maturing processes, methods which will give even more vigorous expression to the democratic principle. There are a number of other changes I think likely to occur.

I do not believe that farmers will want to give up agricultural adjustment. And I believe that agricultural adjustment is likely to move ahead, to develop and to take on through maturing processes forms which will give even more vigorous expression to the principle of economic democracy.

In the first place, I believe that adjustment will become more flexible, looking towards the time when the machinery may be employed for increased as well as decreased production, for making more certain of the balance on which greater security for agriculture will naturally rest.

Secondly, the Adjustment machinery is likely to be refined to remove the individual inequalities and injustices which were inevitable with the speed with which it was put in operation to meet a grave emergency situation.

Third, the Adjustment program will develop greater consistency with the way in which nature laid out the different farming areas of the United States. For instance, a farmer in Illinois recently suggested to me that it would be desirable, and on the basis of facts discovered through experience and scientific investigation, to encourage farmers to limit their plantings of corn to no more than 60 percent of the acreage of a farm. He believed that crop rotation and the planting of legumes would be stimulated in this way. Other farming areas might employ some similar principle. Certainly it might be employed to prevent a repetition of the soil-damaging practices which ruined many of the cotton and tobacco growing sections of the South.

Fourth, I believe the Adjustment program will develop a great deal of flexibility from year to year to make it more fully responsive to the new factors brought forward by nature from year to year. The drouth is a good instance of a force which requires flexibility in order to change the di-

rection of the production in some commodities.

Fifth, there is a likelihood of the development of a process, in association with agricultural adjustment, of tending to stimulate the shifting of production from the poorer and more inefficient lands to the better lands, both on individual farms and by region.

Sixth, the Adjustment program is likely to develop more fully the possibilities of marketing agreements. We need to be open-minded on the subject of marketing agreements. They have been limited so far largely to commodities produced in limited areas. They present a new field. Perhaps they can be more widely applied in the future.

Seventh, there is the possibility of enlargement of the crop insurance features of the Act with a view of making more certain of at least a minimum amount of purchasing power for farmers. The development of this program will have to be handled carefully and should be localized as far as possible.

Eighth, I believe that there will be more experiments looking towards the development of new industrial crops to be raised on contracted acres or as substitutes for contracted acres. The Department of Agriculture is making every effort to increase the industrial uses of farm products. There are undoubtedly many fields here which remain to be discovered.

Ninth, there is a strong possibility that through experience there will be developed greater decentralization of administration of the Adjustment program. Perhaps there are things now being done in Washington that could best be done by the county control associations.

SECRETARY Wallace and all of us who have some part in this program believe in the possibilities of economic democracy as manifested by the referendum and other principles which tend to make the whole Adjustment program more and more "the farmer's show." But we know that democracy cannot work unless it is based on intelligence and a knowledge by the great majority of individuals who are a part of it, of the reasons for every important step taken. Thomas Jefferson laid the strongest emphasis on education as the basis for the successful working of democracy. If we are to have a good deal of control on the basis of the use of referenda, it means that the farmers taking part in the referendum must know and understand the facts related to the decision they are to make. It means that there must be real campaigns to get this information to them and to encourage them to act on this information and not to act on misinformation which persons and groups with axes of their own to grind will be glad enough to offer.

There is another important possibility which is likely to grow with the future of agricultural adjustment. That is the increased use of the principle of storage of surplus farm products on the farms of the producers. It will be

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The Function of Vocational Agriculture in The New Deal¹

WALTER S. NEWMAN, Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Virginia

IN attempting to discuss any phase of the New Deal, we shall conscientiously endeavor to eliminate all partisan attitudes. No effort will be made to debate those very prominent issues of how long the President should be delegated the great authority now vested in him nor whether he should ever have been delegated this authority which has made possible the rather stupendous undertakings under his administration. No effort will be made to discuss or debate the relative effects upon the buying power of the American farmer resulting from the curtailment of production program and those resulting from the changes in our monetary policies. No figures are at hand on a national basis to show the contribution that vocational agriculture has made to the Administration's policies now in effect, but we are told that the Office of Education is engaged in making such a study, and we have every reason to believe that the results of this survey will be complimentary to our forces. On the other hand, it is our intention to discuss the subject from the angle of presenting the point of view of the workers in vocational agriculture and the opportunities offered for us to be of service to rural America. In developing the subject, an endeavor has been made to secure from various workers in agricultural education certain reactions regarding our part in the great national recovery program.

As all of you know, there was held in Washington in June, 1934, a conference relative to emergency programs in vocational agriculture. In commenting on this conference, Dr. George F. Zook, former Commissioner of Education, said: "Operations under emergency legislation by Congress creating and vesting with large powers the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Farm Credit Administration, and other agencies, whose operations affect more or less directly the welfare of the farmer in the present emergency have naturally involved readjustments in established programs of vocational agriculture and some modification of state policies in their permanent programs of vocational education."

At this same conference there was an attempt on the part of a committee to set up some general objectives which were to be somewhat of a guide in regard to our policies in relation to emergency programs. Dr. A. K. Getman, of New York, as a member of this committee, contributed the following statement, which, I believe, sums up quite ably our viewpoint in the present agricultural situation:

"The shift from an economy of scarcity to an economy of abundance, the

building of the human barriers of nationalism, the lack of balance between production and consumption, the dislocation of industry, commerce, and agriculture by the World War, the entangling alliances created by war debts, the mismanagement of national and international currencies, the breakdown of our traditional financial institutions—these are among the powerful influences necessitating the building of a new social order. When our youth, upon leaving our educational institutions, embark on a career in the present period of adjustment, they face responsibilities and difficulties scarcely equaled in complexity by any previous



Walter S. Newman

generation in modern times. Clearly, the rapidly changing conditions and the demand for new abilities and attitudes on the part of youth impose upon public education, and particularly upon those branches dealing with the technical and vocational training for earning a livelihood, new obligations to equip each young person: First, to carry his own economic load; second, to lend the weight of his ability in building social and economic justice; and third, to contribute his bit to that readjustment of the human spirit that will make possible the building of human resources in a generation of abundant material resources. As a part of the public educational program, training in vocational agriculture contributes to the achievement of such objectives at many points."

Close reading of the above general objectives cannot fail to impress one with the fact that our obligation to agriculture means not only training for vocational or economic efficiency, but to contribute to the individual's improvement of his social conditions

and the development of the ability to adjust himself to changing social and economic conditions. Before the present Administration came into power, we were faced with a breakdown of our economic order and very radical changes in our social environment. We had reached the point where education alone could not solve the many problems confronting America. Something more tangible than educational procedures was needed, and the Administration has provided these things through its various recovery programs. The pendulum had swung to the other extreme, and, instead of attempting to adjust matters through a rather slow educational process, we have observed concrete action involving millions of dollars expended in an effort to renew purchasing power on the part of individuals and enable the American public to maintain a satisfactory standard of living and enjoy more favorable social conditions. The American people have gone along with this rather drastic action, prompted by perhaps fear of what might happen, or perhaps patriotism and their courageous belief in America. We have been prompted by these urges rather than by an understanding of why such stupendous, tangible efforts must be made. Our first big opportunity, therefore, as a service agency is to present to the American people, or certainly the rural element thereof, the facts and principles upon which the present national recovery program is based. This national recovery program embraces many agencies or organizations other than the governmental emergency agencies which have been set up to administer certain Acts of Congress.

We must not lose sight of the fact that civic and social groups, farm, labor, industrial, and commercial organizations are also definitely a part of this whole picture because their objectives and activities, just like ours, have been modified by existing conditions. We, of course, are recognized as an educational agency and have no place in dealing with the regulatory phases of any of the policies of the administration. We cannot, however, afford to dodge our definite responsibility of attempting to educate the groups affected by the various Acts, and this educational effort should not alone precede the particular drive, but, should precede, go along with, and follow it. Why have such steps been necessary? What has been done? What is being done? What modifications are being made? And what are the results to date?, presented from the point of view of facts upon which rural America can arrive at opinions, is a definite responsibility of our forces. If this is done by ours and other educational forces, then when changes are necessary, and, of course, they are now

1. An address delivered before the Agricultural Section of the American Vocational Association at Pittsburgh, December 6.

and will continue to be, the public will be in a better position to understand and to follow along, not blindly because of fear or patriotism, but because of some element of understanding.

Perhaps we have been too prone to say that the present recovery program is the Administration's program. Theoretically, this was intended to be the program of the American people, a program intended to fit the rapidly changing time. Judging by the recent vote, it is in reality the peoples' program. It is admitted that there are many confusing angles in the national recovery program, and many of us in various sections of the country are confused, and perhaps disappointed in the actual operation of some of the Acts. In studying those policies or programs which apply definitely to agriculture, however, it would seem that there are certain characteristics that stand out as being decidedly beneficial to our great industry, and perhaps are offering an opportunity to make our program more functional and efficient.

THE Agricultural Adjustment Administration's policy of curtailment of production is causing some of us considerable worry. Prior to this program of decreasing volume, a number of us had been engaged in teaching the readjusting of the farm business and paying a great deal of attention to increasing the size of business. Many of us perhaps still feel that the final solution of the matter is not the present type of controlled production, and it has been indicated that during the next Congress certain very specific modifications of the wheat and cotton program will be proposed. There are, however, certain angles of the curtailment program that are in line with our thinking and on which we have been working for some time. We have been advocating the use of the most fertile soil for the production of crops, and delegating less fertile fields to pasture, woodland, etc. For years we have been insisting upon the production of high quality crops and purebred livestock as well as diversification of farming activities. Our efforts at teaching farm accounting or the keeping of records on the farm business have been none too successful. It appears that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has come along and, because of its rental feature, is giving a great spur and boost to the putting into practice of the things we have been attempting. The work of the Land Utilization Division bears evidence of making a real contribution to agriculture. The removal from production of certain marginal lands and transporting the population to more favorable regions will place responsibility upon us for providing vocational training for these people in the new areas as well as relieve us of the impossible task of assisting these people in making a living on wornout soils. The work of the soil erosion division of the Department of the Interior in setting up its numerous stations throughout the country and in attempting to conserve the ravages of nature and man affect-

ing the fertility of the soil, will give us an excellent opportunity to learn something about the soil erosion control and to use it in our instruction in other areas. As I see the picture, we in vocational agriculture are gaining more than we are losing in the adjustments resulting from the curtailed production program. Never before have we had as rich, up-to-date teaching material, nor more interested students, nor as great an opportunity to contribute to the adjustment of the individual farm business and the attitude of the farmers.

THE Farm Credit Administration seems to have for perhaps the first time in our history set up a system of credit which is intended for agriculture and no other industry. We may belong to the school that says too much credit has been extended the farmer already. Perhaps *too much of the wrong kind of credit has been available*. Regardless of our viewpoint in this matter, we must face the fact that billions of dollars were owed in the form of farm mortgages, and had not the Farm Credit Administration stepped into the picture, hundreds and thousands of farmers would have lost title to their lands, and the catastrophe would have been greater than has been experienced. The particular set-up of production credit appears to many of us to leave much to be desired, but the long-term credit phases of the administration set-up do offer splendid opportunities. The set-up has been greatly simplified, and we are now in a position to teach our potential and present farmers in a factual way concerning the avenues of credit available. Many of us perhaps know that a bulletin will soon be released, on which Dr. Getman of New York has spent considerable time, which is intended primarily for use in our all-day and evening classes. [This bulletin has now been mailed to all agriculture teachers.] This program of farm credit, while it has acted as an emergency measure, was not conceived as a short-time activity but as a long-time program.

THE Rural Rehabilitation movement is beginning to develop rather rapidly and extensively throughout the nation. This program, designed to assist the unfortunates in rural America who have not been able to withstand the stress of time, is another milestone in our new social thinking. These unfortunates apparently exist in greater numbers today than at any previous time. These are farm families, and the present curtailed production program does not provide for them an opportunity to gain a livelihood. It is entirely possible that if the controlled production plan is continued indefinitely, the number of families to be rehabilitated will increase. The progress in this program has in many states been slow. It is in reality an attempt to substitute some opportunity for making a living in lieu of a direct dole. We in vocational agriculture have never reached this particular group of people, and, therefore, I am of the

opinion that we should lend our support to the Administration in trying to do something constructive with this group. It is certainly true that we as a group are in a position to offer very constructive advice and counsel, and we are going to be derelict in our duty unless we find such a place in this program. To me, the greater challenge in both the rural rehabilitation and the subsistence homestead program is not so much the rehabilitation of the adults, which is an immediate problem, but the development of an educational and guidance program for the children of these families so that they may be able to crawl up the ladder several rounds and find profitable and satisfactory employment and a means of making a living in the future. As I view both of these programs, I do not see at the present time how the children of these families, future citizens and potential wage earners, are being provided with opportunities for training in making a living.

IN addition to the rural rehabilitation and the subsistence homestead projects which represent problems arising from unemployment in rural America, another very interesting project is that of the Civilian Conservation Camps. In the very beginning, by far the majority of the young men enrolled in these camps were from the cities, but you and I know of many, many instances where rural young men are taking advantage of this opportunity, and, in many cases, these are boys who have had some training in vocational agriculture. In commenting on this program, Dr. Zook, former Commissioner of Education, says:

"We do not know what is coming out of this program, but, as I have said several times, either industry and business are going to take care of the young people of this country, or the government is going to do so, or the schools are going to do so. It is up to us to figure out which of these three is going to do it, or what combination of the three. It is just possible that the government may give us a demonstration here of the opportunity on the part of men to work at something which is real, including a supplementary educational program which will help these young men to figure out what they are going to do permanently in life."

My position in regard to our cooperation in this movement is that our activities should be confined to assisting these young men in locating in their respective or other communities when their enlistment period at the camp has been completed. I know that in certain states teachers of vocational agriculture are going into the camps and offering instruction, but, my point of view is that these young men are to some extent being taken care of while in camp and that our activities should be confined to the rural youth who are not fortunate enough to be enjoying the facilities and opportunities of these camps. We know that there are at least two million more young people now living on farms than ten

years ago. Many of these are just as dissatisfied with their status as those boys who have gone to the camps. We must do something for this group of young men and women, and in doing something for them, if it be constructive, we shall be improving conditions somewhat so that those returning from the several camps will be in a better position with some aid to make the adjustments necessary to find their place. As you know, this whole question of the youth of America is receiving considerable impetus at present, and there was recently held in the Office of Education in Washington a conference dealing with our part in this very large program. I believe that some of the suggestions made offer possibilities for us to contribute to a very marked extent to this great problem. (This is definitely a product of the New Deal.)

IT is evident to some people that the activities of the federal government in connection with the emergency relief program are trending definitely towards the development of a nationwide educational program for adults. If this program with the impetus given by the use of emergency funds really gets going in a big way, it will provide the greatest stimulus that we have ever had for increased adult work in vocational agriculture. On the other hand, it is likely to bring about some change in the nature of our adult instruction. The general adult program is going to be a very comprehensive one, with vocational agriculture as a rather minor factor or part in the large program. Perhaps a safe prophecy to make, however, is that any very constructive adult program will involve more or less practical types of training; or, perhaps we should say functional training. If this be the case, then our adult educational program, while it may have to be modified, will find a rather prominent place in the general movement.

We are told that under the various phases of the AAA there are more individual farmers cooperating than in any cooperative movement of farmers in this country. This attempt on the part of the government to cooperate with producers is a rather courageous one. While many of us are pessimistic enough to believe that the signing of contracts by farmers has been prompted by the desire for the benefit payment rather than by an understanding of the fundamental principles involved, yet a number of us are hopeful that out of this great movement of individuals will come something which will imbue the American farmer with some appreciation of the value of cooperative effort. In our working with both potential and actual farmers, it seems to me that we should be always looking for an opportunity to stress the part cooperative effort has played in the results attained. If we and other educational agencies do not stress this point, then we have no right to hope for anything in the way of tangible evidence of marked cooperative effort among farmers in the future.

One very striking fact is noted in

regard to agencies working on the various phases of the recovery program. Never in the history of this country have various governmental, educational, and other agencies and organizations shown such a spirit of willingness to work together as has been demonstrated during the past 18 months. People have been so busy that they have not had time to think about the little, petty jealousies, etc., which in normal times cloud the atmosphere, but it seems that each agency or organization has more or less kept its eye on the ball and attempted to play its part in making a touchdown. When and if the various emergency features of the program are gradually dissolved, we must see to it that a somewhat unified, long-time agricultural program is proposed towards which all agencies and organizations can work, in order that this team work which has been so efficient may continue for the betterment of agriculture and rural conditions.

In my estimation, directors, supervisors, and teachers of vocational agriculture have grown both technically and professionally to a greater extent during the past two years than during any like span of time in our life. All of us thought we were busy before the various phases of the recovery program were presented. Since that time we are prone to believe that we were stalling during previous years. This readjustment that is so much talked about has not been confined to industry and agriculture, but has affected each and every one of us. Our agricultural programs in the various states have had to be changed, and the teachers of vocational agriculture have had to budget their time and rearrange their courses as never before. It is safe to say, however, that the average teacher of vocational agriculture is now presenting a program which is not only contributing to the economic and vocational efficiency of his students, but is more up-to-date and timely than ever before, and it is quite gratifying to note that in addition to vocational efficiency and the development of certain skills and abilities, he is laying considerable stress on the development of attitudes, which, in this day and time, in our social and economic structure are of great importance.

ALL of us continually hear and often in our own minds raise the question as to the final outcome of all of the spending the federal government is doing in its effort to remedy conditions. This should give us some grave concern. Every one of us has an opportunity in some way or other to make a contribution to the various phases of the recovery program. If we stand idly by without making constructive suggestions as to the operation of the program in our respective communities, then we are taking for granted that its operation is excellent and cannot be improved upon, or that it is so bad that there is nothing that we can do about it. Each of us as public servants, paid from the taxpayer's money, should see to it that the ac-

tual operation of any part of the program that affects our community is put over in such a way that it will represent the best possible investment that conditions will permit. If we do not do this, and if we do not play our part, we are not worthy of our calling and our position as citizens and leaders and friends of rural America.

Philosophy of the New Deal

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possible to employ the principle of loans so successfully used last year for the storage of corn. It will be possible to use these loan programs only if they are tied to the Adjustment program so as to make sure that production can be adjusted from time to time if supplies stored on the farms warrant curtailment. We do not want any more backing up on the farms and in the terminal markets of surpluses such as lay in the wake of the Farm Board program. This storage principle has in it the possibilities of the development of what Secretary Wallace calls the "ever-normal granary."

There is one point in connection with the future of the Adjustment program which I would like to give separate emphasis. That is the conviction that the county control associations must confine their functions solely to administration of the Adjustment programs in their counties. Their functions may be enlarged, but they must resist the temptation of moving into the field of politics, of marketing, or in the fields where the regular farm organizations and the cooperative groups are now serving definite purposes.

There is also a long-time phase of agricultural adjustment about which we need to be thinking at this time. A part of this long-time adjustment will involve application of the principles of a better land utilization and the retirement of sub-marginal lands from commercial farm production. It is likely that, as part of this program, opportunities will be given to farm families now living on sub-marginal lands to move to better lands where they will have a fair chance to gain a better standard of living. A fund of \$25,000,000 has been set aside for the purchase of sub-marginal lands, and the Adjustment Administration is co-operating in this project with a view of learning more about the possibilities of aiding in and encouraging the moving towards the better use of lands.

Until recently the surplus population on our farms could find a place on the new land in the West. But the good lands of the West are now very nearly exhausted. We have always had a flow of people from the land to the cities in the United States. Close students estimate that of the six million farmers we have, approximately two million of them are not actually needed in agriculture. Most of the production is centered in the hands of four million farm families; and if there is any expansion in agricultural production, it is likely that these will take up the

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Part-Time Schools



Characteristics and Needs of Rural Youth in the 16-24 Year Age Group¹

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THE existence of a rural youth problem has been suggested frequently of late. The new interest in rural youth which seems to be developing encourages the hope that something constructive will be done about the difficult situation which confronts hundreds of thousands of these budding citizens.

Nature and Extent of the Rural Youth Problem

Because of census limitations it is necessary to set the upper age limit at 24 years in the statistical data presented, although it is recognized that some persons a few years older than this probably should be included.

The 1930 Census contains some enlightening data concerning rural youth. It is impossible to include more than a few of the most significant facts in the present analysis.

On April 1, 1930, there were 5,140,190 persons 16 to 24 years of age living on farms in rural territory—that is, on farms elsewhere than in incorporated places of 2,500 or more. Of this number 1,170,320 or 22.8 percent were attending school, 2,373,067 or 46.2 percent were gainfully occupied and not attending school, and 779,969 or 15.1 percent were married females who were neither in school nor had gainful occupations as these terms are defined by the census. In addition, there were 213,869 rural-farm males in this age group who were not attending school and not gainfully occupied; and 602,965 unmarried rural-farm females in the same age group likewise neither in school nor gainfully occupied.

At first glance it appears as though our discussion of farm youth should center chiefly on the problems of the out-of-school, unmarried, older girls who do not have gainful occupations. However, the apparent preponderance of females in these figures seems to be chiefly as a result of the census definition of gainful occupations. Thus, a very large majority of the farm boys and young men were classified as unpaid family workers in agriculture. In taking the census, such persons were to be counted as gainfully occupied if they were employed the equivalent of one day or more per week at farm work, not household work, on the farms where they were living. Much part-time employment probably was

included. On the other hand, unpaid family members doing only housework were not enumerated by the census as gainfully employed though many of the unmarried farm girls and young women mentioned above probably were working as many hours per week at household tasks as their brothers and some of their sisters who were enumerated as unpaid family workers in agriculture.



T. B. Manny

On the basis of these census data, it seems reasonable to assume that in 1930 of the almost four million rural-farm young folks not attending school perhaps nearly two million would have come within the scope of a program primarily intended to help out-of-school farm young folks reach adulthood reasonably well prepared to assume the responsibilities that go with maturity.

In addition to the rural-farm young folks just mentioned, we must consider the corresponding rural-nonfarm group. Many of these also live in the open country. As far as local social and educational activities are concerned, these young folks cannot be distinguished from the farm group except as to residence on units too small to be classed as farms by the census. In

1930, there were 434,894 such rural-nonfarm young folks out of school, not gainfully occupied, and for females, unmarried. Within the group, however, the distribution between the sexes was more nearly equal than it was among the rural-farm group. This indicates that many of the older girls and young women among the rural-nonfarm young folks were working outside of their homes in stores, factories, and other forms of employment, while but few of the older boys and young men were classed as unpaid family workers in agriculture.

Making some allowance for part-time employment, it appears that we should add at least half a million rural-nonfarm youth to the above mentioned rural-farm youth under consideration. This would make in 1930 a total of more than two million persons 16 to 24 years of age who were apparently in most immediate need of a guidance and activities program designed to help them locate suitable work opportunities and to become useful citizens in other ways.

Data seem to indicate that the problem of the out-of-school, inadequately employed young person was more acute in rural areas than in urban territory. The depression has doubtless added to the problem in the cities, but, as indicated in the following section in greater detail, it has probably made the situation even more serious in rural areas.

Changes Since 1930

What has happened since 1930? Only a new census will produce an accurate picture, but some evidences are available. On April 1, 1930, there were 2,961,759 rural-farm boys and girls 12 to 15 years of age and 1,792,545 rural-nonfarm boys and girls in the same age group. By 1934, except for deaths and migration to towns and cities (the latter probably being more than offset by migration in the opposite direction), these young folks reached the age group we are considering. Those over 20 years of age in 1930 have now passed out of this group, but it seems reasonable to assume that a considerable number of the older ones are still more or less inadequately employed and in need of some assistance.

Between 1920 and 1930, an average of approximately a million young people migrated each year from farms to cities and towns where most of them were able to find employment. Many

1. An address delivered before a joint session of the Part-time Section and the Agricultural Section of the American Vocational Association at Pittsburgh, December 7.

rural-nonfarm young people also migrated to the cities during this decade. Since 1930 both of these migration streams have been much reduced in volume. The result is that throughout rural America there are now hundreds of thousands of young folks, some of them highly trained for professional careers, living at home with little to do, their hopes of city employment blasted, at least for the time being.

On the other hand, the landward migration from the cities which started not long after the depression became serious has added other thousands of young folks to the rural population of many states, some returning to their former homes, others living elsewhere in rural areas. A large number of city families, many with young persons of the ages we are considering, have moved into the country and are seeking to cut living costs through growing foods for their own use and affecting other economies possible in a rural environment. Many are in destitute circumstances and require more or less continuous help from relief agencies. In this way, agriculture, especially subsistence farming for home consumption, has provided at least part-time work for many newcomers in sharp contrast to the more or less complete idleness enforced upon many of the urban unemployed.

But the presence of these former city residents in rural areas has not improved the employment outlook for the young folks born and reared in the country. For example, instances have been reported in which younger sons who remained on the home farms with their parents in anticipation of acquiring these farms have been forced to give up this prospect when their older brothers, who had migrated to the cities, came back to their former homes and because of seniority or for other reasons took over the management of these farms. The increased labor supply in rural areas where the landward movement has been pronounced is making it doubly hard for rural young folks to secure work in the vicinity of their homes.

Some rural high schools have had to close, and others have had to reduce their curricula drastically, because of dwindling revenues. Many rural families living outside of high school districts have been unable to finance tuition and living or transportation expenses to keep their young folks in school. Other families have been unable to provide the college education which they had hoped to give to their sons and daughters. The great drought of 1934 added to the woes of rural communities over a vast expanse of territory.

The foregoing trends all indicate a growing number of out-of-school rural young folks wholly unemployed or very inadequately employed compared with the situation on April 1, 1930. I would not be surprised to learn, were a comparable census taken in the spring of 1935, that this group had practically doubled in size during the 5-year period.

Some Bright Spots

From the foregoing, it might seem

logical to assume that the plight of millions of rural youth is well nigh hopeless, but, fortunately, extenuating circumstances materially reduce the seriousness of this prospect. For present purposes an enumeration of the more significant ones will suffice.

1. Many different groups are becoming aware of this situation. Most of them are making definite plans to help in one way or another.
2. In marked contrast to the trend of many years past (when most rural communities suffered to some extent because a majority of their young folks, often the more aggressive ones, left home in search of larger worlds to conquer, and rural leadership was becoming increasingly scarce as a result) more well-trained rural young folks are now remaining in their home communities.
3. The landward stream since 1930 has included considerable numbers of people whose talents, ideas, and attitudes differ from those of the majority of residents in the rural communities where these migrants have settled. If used to best advantage, this change should result in a definite enrichment of existing cultural levels.
4. Land-use planning, the stabilization of farm incomes through controlled production and other adjustments, the expansion of rural electrification, the building of better farm-to-market roads, greater equalization of educational opportunities, and various other steps being taken to increase the economic security of the farmer will contribute materially to solving the rural youth problem.
5. The gradual decentralization of certain factory industries, a change which appears to be coming in some parts of the United States, will provide increasing opportunities for employment to persons living in rural areas, often on farms.
6. From 1910 to 1930, the average age of farm operators tended upward. Prior to 1910, the number of farms was increasing rapidly, these farms being acquired for the most part during early middle age. Following 1910, this expansion for the United States as a whole soon ceased, and decreases in the number of farms became more and more evident. Fewer young and middle-aged men required farms. In part also, this increasing age of farm operators was due to high land values which hindered young men from acquiring farms as readily as in the past. To some extent the change in average of farm operators was due to the urbanward migration of farm young folks, their parents continuing to farm as best they could. Assuming that in the next 25 years the number of farms remains approximately constant or increases slightly, there will be more opportunities for

young men to become farm operators under reasonably favorable terms than has obtained since 1910. Yet this prospect may be reduced somewhat if middle-aged men from the cities buy or rent farms (usually small places) as a means of securing employment and a partial livelihood when city employers turn them down on account of age. This latter trend is already observable in some areas, especially those near industrial centers, and it may become more widespread in the future.

The Basic Needs of Rural Youth

At a conference of extension specialists held in June, 1934, an attempt was made to enumerate the most important needs of farm youth as a basis for an expanded program applying to this age group. The outline of the present section is an adaptation of this enumeration. Each need is discussed briefly.

1. *Occupational Guidance.* Although 22.8 percent of the rural-farm youth 16 to 24 years of age were reported by the 1930 census as attending some sort of a school and 22.4 percent of the corresponding rural-nonfarm group were reported as in school, only a minority of the rural youth complete high school and a considerable number fail to acquire an elementary education. In many rural high schools, probably little, if anything, is being done in the field of occupational guidance, and in most elementary schools serving rural areas apparently almost nothing is being done. Only here and there in rural areas does one find somebody who is making a definite attempt to secure accurate and up-to-date information in this field and who is exhibiting any skill in passing it on to the young folks.

Of course, the most expert guidance may prove more or less incorrect in individual instances. But even a very limited occupational guidance service in rural areas would have punctured some of the illusions apparently held by thousands of young folks when they left their homes to seek urban employment. In addition, it might have avoided some of the occupational misfits in rural areas.

2. *Finding a Place to Work.* After a young person has decided what occupation he or she is going to pursue and has made as much preparation for this field as resources permit or has passed the minimum requirements demanded in occupations for which laws or other formal requirements are set up, the question of securing work becomes paramount. For young men who have decided to farm, there may be several alternatives, such as entering into some kind of a partnership arrangement with one's parents if they are farming, working as hired laborer on the farm, renting a farm and thus becoming a farm operator, or perhaps even purchasing a farm if one has sufficient resources.

For young women who want employment in rural communities where they live, the problem is more difficult even

in good times. Opportunities for employment outside the home and available to women are largely confined to the cities and to rural areas where factories or other activities using female workers are to be found, whereas farming as an industry uses mostly male workers. This is probably the major reason for the disproportions of the sexes in urban and rural areas, females being most numerous in the former and males in the latter.

The depression has made it especially difficult for a young man with little material resources to start out as a farm operator, at least above the share-cropper level. On the other hand, there may be unsuspected opportunities near at hand if some effort is made to get at the facts. For example, an instance was reported a few weeks ago occurring in a rural community in which approximately a dozen young men were eager to find nearby employment. These persons, in an organized and business-like manner, undertook an intensive search for possible employment opportunities in their local areas. Most of them were able to find jobs that no one had thought existed. Four entered into partnership agreements with ageing farm owners who were anxious to take some steps toward retirement but who had been unwilling to rent their farms to the usual run of tenants. Two found places as herdsmen, and all but two of the group secured acceptable employment within a month.

3. *Personality Development.* Poise, tact, self-confidence, good manners, sociability, cooperativeness, and many other traits which enrich personality and add to one's attractiveness are acquired to a considerable extent during adolescence and early adulthood. If not achieved during these years, the process is likely to be slower and to require more conscious effort in later life. To some extent, personality development is a product of participation in wholesome group activities and the pursuit of hobbies and cultural arts in which self-expression and personal satisfaction furnish much of the incentive. It also results in part from formal educational processes, and from other factors and influences in home and community life.

Marked differences in the number and variety of contacts with people in other walks of life served, in the past, to emphasize urban and rural differences. More recently, the forces of urbanization have penetrated increasingly into rural areas so that many former rural-urban differences are becoming less and less pronounced. Yet in most rural areas (and in many urban places also) greater opportunities for self-expression among the young folks are urgently needed from the viewpoint of personality development and to add to the attractiveness of living. Choruses, orchestras, bands, literary events, dramatics, athletics, stunt shows, picnics, parties, group discussions, camping trips, and the pursuit of hobbies and the cultural arts all have a place in this development.

4. *Preparation for Marriage and the Establishment of a Home.* In the United States as a whole, there has

been a slow but definite increase in the proportion of persons over 15 years of age who are married. Moreover, the proportion of single persons is considerably lower in rural areas than in urban territory. Thus for most young people, particularly those likely to remain in rural areas, marriage and the establishment of a home will continue to be the normal procedure.

In recent years, rural young folks here and there are showing some interest in group discussions which consider the obligations and opportunities of marriage and homemaking. These groups are also concerning themselves with some study and discussion of the bases of successful family living. I have been agreeably surprised at the eagerness and sincerity of purpose evidenced by the small number of such groups that I have seen in action. A frank discussion of these matters is needed as one way of avoiding some of the mistakes that arise from ignorance, misunderstanding, and silly sentimentalism.

The foregoing is by no means a recommendation that special groups be organized for this purpose. On the contrary, almost any young people's group which has meetings for discussion of various subjects can include this as a part of the year's program. At least for persons over 18, and perhaps for the entire age group under consideration, the discussion meetings should include both sexes. Moreover, except for the adult counselor or sponsor, older persons should be excluded unless there are a few whom the group would like to invite and question.

5. *Participation in Civic Affairs.* One of the most fundamental safeguards for a democracy consists of active participation in local civic and governmental affairs by a large proportion of the responsible citizens.

From among today's rural young folks will come a large majority of tomorrow's rural citizens. Many are already eager to assume some definite part as good citizens in their own communities. They may desire to discuss local civic and governmental problems. They may be desirous of making some improvements to existing public buildings and grounds. They may be anxious to improve the appearance of yards, farmsteads, and houses. A club house or an auditorium where their organized activities can be housed more adequately may be their immediate goal. The need for drawing rural young folks into more active participation in civic affairs is especially noticeable at present in view of the larger numbers of this age group likely to be found in most rural communities at least during the years just ahead.

Some Major Considerations in Meeting the Rural Youth Problem

This paper is presented from the viewpoint of rural youth themselves, rather than from the viewpoint of any particular agency or institution desirous of serving these young folks. The local sponsoring agency or individual may represent different approaches in different communities, and the actual program which is put into

practice will also vary greatly from place to place. In this section of the report, a few major considerations are discussed; considerations that underlie whatever forms of organization, programs of activities, and relationships to other local agencies and institutions may be contemplated in specific areas.

1. *A Young-Adult Centered Enterprise.* The group with which we are dealing is composed of young adults, not older children. In attending several conferences called to consider rural young people's problems, I have been disappointed over the apparent failure in most instances to consult the young folks themselves before going ahead in the development of specific plans and programs. In dealing with this age group, our responsibility is one of guidance, not self-assumed authority. We may be instrumental in calling a group of young folks together, but it seems to me that we are making a wrong approach when we presume to specify what these young folks are to undertake, instead of urging them to study their own local needs and to develop an organization and a program accordingly. If we maintain the right attitude toward our young folks and have anything to offer them by way of guidance and training, they will call upon us, probably far in excess of our abilities and resources.

2. *A Larger Community Enterprise.* Except in areas where bad roads prevent, young people's organizations probably will extend over wider areas than do the project groups for the younger ages. The older groups usually prefer larger numbers and the greater variety of contacts which larger numbers afford. We are certainly not ready to set up any definite standard area basis of organization, such as a local neighborhood, school district, township, community, county, or what not, to the exclusion of other unit bases.

3. *A Non-formal Educational Enterprise.* My observations, backed up by conversations with a number of other persons, is that rural young people are not greatly interested in a program which involves the usual techniques of formal education, except perhaps in the realm of vocational training. More interest, however, seems to be developing in informal training in the cultural arts; music, dramatics, pageantry, debating, handicrafts, and so on, with some discussion groups dealing with current social and economic problems of locality, state, and nation.

4. *Various Advisers for Specific Activities.* In some rural communities there already exist active young people's organizations sponsored by the churches. Junior Granges and perhaps similar units of other fraternal orders are found here and there. Young people who have completed the work offered under 4-H Club or vocational agricultural leadership have set up continuing organizations in a number of instances. Most of these continuing organizations, however, admit as members only those who have come up through the organizations, and they thus reach only a comparatively small

number of the older group.

If a single organization of rural young folks is to attempt to meet the needs that have been suggested earlier in this paper, membership qualifications should be limited to age, character, and desire. Such an organization itself should not be viewed as the exclusive concern of any one agency in the community even though a single agency was originally responsible in setting it up. In other words, the adult supervision of such a broad-gauge young people's organization should consist of an advisory committee made up of the local extension agents, vocational and perhaps other teachers, one or more representatives of the ministers, a leading farmer or two, a successful homemaker, and a prominent business or professional man. Such an advisory committee might serve for a series of young people's clubs in a given county or for a county federation of these clubs.

5. *Multiplicity of Organizations and Programs.* In relation to the existing need and the work already under way among rural young folks, it may seem a bit previous to sound a word of warning concerning over-organization. Yet if every institution and agency having a rural program were to attempt to organize the rural young folks about its own particular interest or ism, there would be some collisions and duplications before very long. If county advisory councils for rural young people's groups can be set up and if the various agencies fostering programs for rural young folks will coordinate their work through such councils, overorganization and duplication will be avoided and the real needs of the young folks will be met effectively.

A Final Word

Rural young folks, probably more numerous now than at any previous time in our history, are facing a new set of problems big enough to challenge all the red blood and enthusiasm they possess. Thousands of them would have migrated to the cities and found urban employment had pre-depression trends continued. Other thousands have come out from the cities in a search for subsistence that could be found in the cities only by recourse to the bread lines or relief rolls. Now the country-side is teeming with young folks. Apparently many will remain at least for several years to come. Organized into local groups for a wide variety of activities, they can do a great deal to make life more worth while not only for themselves but for everyone in their communities. Little or no cash expenditures are needed for many of these activities. The young folks are asking for help and guidance from institutions, professional people, leading farmers, and successful homemakers in getting organized and in planning and carrying out activities programs. They don't want bosses; they want counsellors. They don't want to be led; they want to lead. They don't want hand-outs; they want opportunities. They don't want theories and promises; they want facts and

realities. Are the agencies serving rural areas ready and able to meet such a challenge? I believe they are, and I believe that the time has arrived for a definite move in this direction on the part of all who are willing to serve as counsellors and guides.

Summary of Panel Discussion on Out-of-School Farm Youth

[Editor's Note—This panel discussion was one of the high-lights of the A. V. A. meeting. The summary was written by W. A. Ross.]

1. The public school system and public school educators have a responsibility toward the out-of-school farm youth as well as to the farm youth in school. This situation should be recognized more generally than at present.

2. Vocational agriculture can and should render a greater educational service to the out-of-school farm youth than is now being rendered. The same is true of other departments of the school system.

3. Part-time education in vocational agriculture seems to be one of the best devices for meeting the educational needs of the out-of-school farm youth. However, it is very evident that such a program must be broadened and amplified in interpretation beyond the conception held by folks in the vocational agriculture field in many states. There must be more flexibility in the part-time set-up, to facilitate meeting local conditions.

4. The group to be served must be enlarged beyond that of either former students of vocational agriculture or those who have dropped out of school. It must be all-inclusive with respect to out-of-school farm youth who need further training to meet changing economic and social conditions.

5. Instruction needs to be individualized and based on surveys revealing information about the individual and the situation in which he finds himself.

6. There must be a broadened conception of the supervised practice program for a part-time class. Its development must be considered as contributing to the actual establishment of the individual in farming and, therefore, a basis for instruction.

7. If teachers are going to do a first class job of teaching part-time boys, they must be prepared properly for it, and they must also do a first class job with their all-day boys if they expect them to come back for part-time instruction.

8. Part-time instruction should be the connecting link in a continuous chain of education, linking all-day instruction with adult evening instruction.

9. Part-time courses in agriculture for the out-of-school youth can be given successfully in the evening.

10. The F. F. A. organization can assist in the following ways:

- Help to locate the out-of-school youth and discover his needs.
- Invite out-of-school boys to social meetings and familiarize them

with the work of the local agriculture department in the school.

c. Make studies of placement opportunities on farms in the locality.

d. Give citizenship training.

11. We must all study, very conscientiously, the needs of the out-of-school youth and make a supreme effort to improve on the progress made in this direction up to the present time.

12. Educational needs must be kept in the foreground, and organizations provided for holding out-of-school youth groups together as needed. This may be accomplished by means of:

- Local unaffiliated groups.
- State-wide young farmer associations
- Groups affiliated with F. F. A.
- Membership in the F. F. A.

13. Content of courses for the out-of-school farm youth must be broadened, and citizenship must take an important place in the instruction offered.

14. There should be some readjustment of teaching load, to allow teachers of vocational agriculture to work with the out-of-school youth, especially in the present emergency.

15. Consideration should be given to bringing both young men and young women under instruction by cooperation with home economics departments.

Part-Time Classes in Agriculture¹

C. L. ANGERER, Assistant Supervisor,
Missouri

BEFORE the spring conferences held in South Missouri this year, I asked the men in advance to determine from the permanent records in their files, the number of boys who had received instruction in vocational agriculture one or more years. To me the report was an interesting one, and showed that out of the 35 schools reporting there were a total of 1,563 former students now farming. In reporting this information to the men, this special heading was listed, "Opportunities for part-time instruction." The figures show that there are from 4 to 125 former vocational agriculture students now farming in each of these 35 communities, with an average of 44 boys. To me, and I am certain to many of our instructors, this proved beyond a doubt the necessity for further training of this particular group who were once ours and who in a majority of cases would welcome the chance of returning for advanced training. In Missouri there has been a distinct break in our training program between the all-day students and the adult group enrolled in evening classes. We must in the future so regulate the opportunities for instruction that it will follow through from the all-day to the part-time group and later to the adult farmers.

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1. From an address before the State Supervisors Sub-Section of the American Vocational Association at Pittsburgh, December 5.

The Problem of Out-of-School Farm Youth

D. M. CLEMENTS—Head, Tennessee Division of Vocational Education

IN dealing with this problem, our thinking should consider young men and women between eighteen and twenty-five rather than a younger group. There is a problem with the younger group, but it is different from the one that concerns the young men and women on the border line of becoming established in life. This problem could be attacked from the standpoint of young men only, but to leave out the young women would not complete the unit about which we are concerned.



D. M. Clements

There is a statement in the Bible to the effect "That when I was a child, I thought as a child, etc.—Now that I have become a man, I have put away childish things."

The situation is this: through the ages children have been dropping out of school for one cause or another, from the first grade up. Until now, unfortunately, very little thought has been given to this large group of young men and women who represent our second line of defense in civilization. Numbers of school administrators all over this nation have taken the position that the schools had no responsibility for the welfare of this group, because they had dropped out of school and gone their respective ways. Not until the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917, was there any law within the control of secondary school officials that provided funds for offering educational opportunities to those not in regular attendance in school, and even to this day there is no great amount of money appropriated by the state for those who are not enrolled in school.

These young men and women represent a group that can be numbered in the millions. There are about seven million of them on farms and about six million in rural villages. Of these there are about ten million out of school.

All of a sudden the people of America are waking up to the fact that an opportunity of some kind should be offered this group. Every agency that might be concerned is at work, but they all seem to be working without coordination.

Some people have dubbed this group "drifters." I ask you to answer the question, who set them adrift? Some people have dubbed them "the forgotten young men and women." I ask you to answer the question, who forgot them? They haven't forgotten those who set them adrift and those who forgot them. Until the intelligent leadership of this country makes an effort to find out from this group the things they need and want, and makes an honest effort to supply this need in an ac-

ceptable manner to this group, very little progress will be made in our civilization.

There is another situation that we know exists. This group of young men and young women not only have been neglected and themselves have neglected their opportunities, but their parents before them are doubtless of the same type group. There is no chance at home when they are young. There is no desire on their part to take much help from anyone when they reach their adolescent period. They are too proud to ask for help when they realize they need it, and they will not take help from those who can give it, except on their own terms.

Still another situation exists with the young men and women of this particular group. They are restless. They know there is more in life than making money, but they know that they must make money to do what they want to do. Some of them have never earned any money in their lives. Practically all of them want not to have to depend on their parents for support. Practically all of them at this age want to get married and begin a life and a home of their own, but they have judgment enough not to take this step without any means of earning a living. Any number of them realize that the farm unit is too small to support the number in the family. They find no one will hire them, and the years go by and they cannot see any silver lining behind the cloud. Its a pretty dark picture to be passing through the minds of millions of our young men and women who a few years before felt that when they grew up they could and would conquer the world, and now being face to face with insurmountable barriers on all sides and not knowing what to do. They are going to do something about it. Our job is to see they do the right thing.

THERE is a very definite responsibility that all adults have to children. If that responsibility has not been fulfilled by the time these children become young men and women, then, this large group is being turned loose to conduct the affairs of this nation unprepared for their responsibilities, and so the vicious circle.

The Family is our smallest social unit. It is there that a complete education should begin. What chance has this large group of our young men and women had to become good citizens in the family? What chance have they had to learn to know the best standards for a good citizen? What chance have they had to learn to know the fundamentals of health and sanitation? What chance have they had to learn to know and appreciate the value of art, literature, music, play, etc? What chance have they had to learn to know that a good citizen must be willing to give as well as take; that people must work together for the good of all; that as we lift the mass to a high

standard, everybody will be better off? There are any number of things that have been denied these young men and women that they should have had as children in the Family; but they could not get these things, because their parents did not know. Then, if those of us who do know, do not at least offer these things to those who have been denied them, how can we expect civilization to progress when we know that families will soon be made up from this very group with whom we are now dealing.

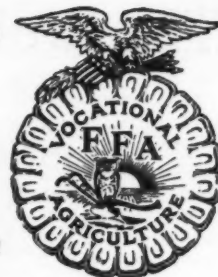
The Home and the Farm happens to be about the only perfect business partnership there is. That is the reason our young women and young men in rural sections should be considered together as a unit when helping them to deal with their problems. I believe one reason we have made no more progress than we have is that we have attempted to leave the young women out of the picture in the so-called part-time work we have attempted in agriculture. I believe that if, to begin with, we might get good teachers of agriculture and home economics to work together in the interest of young men and young women, giving the group of both the things they need for the farm and giving the group of both the things they need for the home, and also giving to the young men the specific things of the farm and to the women the specific things of the home, that we would get somewhere with what we are trying to do.

Now that we have them together, let's hold them together. To be able to do this they must be given the opportunity to sing together, to put on plays together, to have open forums together, and to discuss local issues and current issues of county, state, and national importance. They must also be given the privilege of playing together. There are all sorts of games that can be devised for them which they would enjoy. Both men and women play basketball, tennis, etc. They can learn to dance together. They love good music, and for that reason piano, radio, and orchestras should be available. We have millions of dollars locked up in our school houses about four months in the year. We have taught our schools in such a manner that when once our young men and young women are out, they want to go anywhere else but to the school house for a meeting. This condition must be changed, or our entire educational system will be broken down. It will not be changed until our school teachers begin to take an interest in something of the community except the four walls of the schoolroom. Young men and young women of rural communities do not go where they think they are not wanted, and when school teachers don't mix and mingle with them any more than they do now, they know they are not wanted. It's school teachers' responsibility to serve all the people in an educational, social,

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Future Farmers of America



Using F. F. A. to Stimulate Interest

C. E. HELLBUSCH, Adviser,
Anthony, New Mexico

EVERY vocational agriculture department must have some outstanding feature in addition to the regular classroom work. The department that doesn't have some such feature usually finds interest lagging, enrolment dropping, and finally the department completely dead or a new teacher coming in to try to rebuild it.

Interest must be kept at a high pitch by some means. Some schools are fortunate enough to win in state judging contests; some have outstanding students that keep departments alive; others are outstanding in some phase of work. Only a few departments are able to win contests, and only a few get outstanding students, so the others must resort to other means to keep up their interest and enrolment. Here is where a well organized, active chapter of F. F. A. plays its part.

Boys react much better toward the work of an organization if they have something to say about its activities. Let the department function entirely as an F. F. A. chapter, with the boys directing all its work except the actual teaching work, which must be done by the instructor. Added interest and zest will be given an activity if the members of the department have something to do with the planning and actually doing of the job, instead of being puppets guided by a string in the instructor's hands. The instructor should be the adviser and keep the F. F. A. under control, but should he shoulder all the responsibility and do all the work, the boys will soon lose interest.

Every active chapter should have a definite program of work, and every member should work to carry out that program. Too many chapters do not have a definite goal to attain each year, and as a result nothing is accomplished and the chapter soon gets in a rut.

Every member of the Anthony chapter is striving to carry out the chapter's program of work. The boys are interested. They are alive to their work. As a result, the chapter is gaining new members and prestige with other departments of the school.

The old proverb "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" applies to our F. F. A. activities. The question was brought up at a recent conference of agriculture teachers as to why their F. F. A. chapters weren't stronger and why in some cases the enrolment in the agriculture classes

had dropped from one-third to one-half. One of the members of the conference, a man well educated in affairs of the F. F. A., said, "You boys are placing too much stress on your subject matter, forcing too many dry speeches on the boys at your F. F. A. meetings, making your meetings too formal. In other words, you are neglecting the recreational side of your program."

How true that is. Don't forget that boys of high school age loath long speeches, and if given them in formal meetings, the boys will stay away. The boys like to have fun, and if an interesting recreational program is afforded them along with their work, they will respond better.

Recreational contests of all kinds are welcomed by the boys. Basketball games, ping-pong contests, hikes, and trips to the mountains are some ways in which the boys may enjoy themselves. Boys generally have to travel several miles to attend F. F. A. meetings, and if they have nothing in prospect except a long-drawn-out meeting, they soon will be among those missing when the roll is called. If they know that some form of entertainment will be held for them after the meeting, they will overcome all obstacles to attend.

A new man just starting a chapter cannot afford to overlook the recreational side of the F. F. A. work. Too many times, boys are prone to view the F. F. A. with resentment. They can't see its value because they know nothing about it and they haven't given it a chance to show them what it can do. Show these boys a good time at the meetings, and they will gradually become interested.

I don't want to leave the impression that the F. F. A. meetings should be made into fun fests. As previously stated, every F. F. A. chapter should have a program of work, but too many chapters neglect the recreational side of the work and the boys lose interest.

The Anthony chapter of F. F. A. has in progress a ping-pong tournament. Singles and doubles matches are being played. These matches are all held after the regular F. F. A. meetings, which are held once a month at night. The boys not in the ping-pong tournament usually have a basketball game, and other recreation is provided. A three- or four-day outing in the mountains is taken at the end of every school year, and the boys look forward to this trip. Once a month the agriculture classes attend the regular meeting of the Farm Bureau and participate in the program. The boys

The F. F. A. Helps to Operate a County Fair

E. V. BEARER, Assistant State Supervisor,
New Jersey

THE county fair held in Cape May County, New Jersey this year was organized and sponsored by the County Board of Agriculture, the county agricultural agent, the teacher of vocational agriculture, and the F. F. A. chapters of the county. At the organization meeting, held early in August, the county agent was delegated to secure the interest and cooperation of the farmers in the northern half of the county, the vocational agriculture teacher that of the farmers in the southern half. In addition, the F. F. A. members of the three schools in the county were to aid in every way possible.

As a first step in planning for the exhibition of the products of his pupils, Mr. Reeves, the agriculture teacher, called a meeting of the F. F. A. officers of his three local high school chapters, to discuss the exhibit and to plan for its organization. The main outcome of this meeting was the plan to construct and finance an F. F. A. exhibit building, 12 x 20 feet, by the pupils themselves. The finances were raised by having an F. F. A. dance, running movies, and contributions by students and the County Vocational Board.

Mr. Reeves and his pupils, with the aid of a carpenter, completed the F. F. A. building early in September. The structure had a door at each end, and

find it interesting, and the Bureau members enjoy it. A father-and-son banquet is a yearly feature. The boys do all the planning and arrange the program. How they do work! These are only a few of the activities engaged in by the chapter. The boys all help to keep the chapter alive and growing. One other feature of the Anthony program which bears mentioning is that every spring members hold a picnic for eighth grade students living in the high school district. These eighth grade boys are given a real afternoon of entertainment. Games of all kinds are played. A big picnic lunch is brought by the agriculture boys. The good of this program reflects itself in the enrolment when those eighth graders come to high school in the fall.

I merely bring out these suggestions in the hope that they will aid some department in putting over its F. F. A. program. My motto is, "Give the boys a chance to play, and they will be better students the next day."

on either side were two windows. Exhibit benches were set up on the sides and in the middle of the building, and the aisles were made wide enough to enable people to pass in either direction. The pupils also prepared F. F. A. signs and product markers and erected a pole on the top of the building, from which floated a flag bearing the words, Vocational Agriculture.

The fair was held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, early in the fall. On Friday afternoon all the schools in Cape May County were closed so that pupils might have an opportunity to visit the various poultry, dairy, swine, vegetable, field crops, fruit, flower, shrubbery, and home economics exhibits.

The writer visited the fair and noted, particularly, the interest shown by the adults in the vocational agriculture exhibits. Many questions were asked Mr. Reeves and his pupils, as the people viewed the various exhibits, about culture, disease and insect control, market conditions, seed and plant sources, and suitable varieties, and also about projects, the value of vocational agriculture, the meaning of F. F. A., and the high schools now teaching vocational agriculture in Cape May and nearby counties.

There were many different types of exhibits. In the vegetable and crop groups were beets, carrots, cabbage, egg plants, okra, onions, peppers, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, and yams; in the fruit group, thirteen plates of apple varieties, strawberries, and cranberries; in the animal group, eggs, normal and abnormal, and bottled milk; in the flower group, dahlias (red, white, yellow, purple), roses, and ferns. One of his pupils also had an exhibit of shrubbery just outside the building, and one of his adult farmers an exhibit inside the building. One special feature was a hive of bees enclosed in glass so that one might watch them as they worked. Along with this exhibit were jars of honey, showing the different grades, and also beeswax. Another special feature was a set-up of a model dairy farm, which included a barn, house, garage, windmill, and farm outlay.

Mr. Reeves, in commenting on the exhibits furnished by his pupils, said, "We thought that a 12 x 20 foot house would more than take care of the exhibits of our pupils. The fact is, however, that we were crowded for room, hence next year the building will have to be enlarged. For this we already have plans.

A New Jersey Chapter Aids State Police to Prevent Chicken Thefts

FOR several years the state police of New Jersey, through a system of tattooing poultry with registered numbers, have been able very frequently to trace stolen flocks of poultry and thus prevent much thieving of poultry in the state.

When this work was first started, the boys of the Rancocas F. F. A. Chapter of Mt. Holly saw its possi-

bilities as a preventive measure for chicken thieving. Indeed, many of them at that time had lost birds through theft, and naturally had an interest in any method that would prevent such losses. Accordingly, 12 boys of the chapter applied to the state police for registration numbers. The chapter purchased a tattooing machine, a complete set of numbers, and sufficient ink to tattoo several thousand birds. Then, through the cooperation of the county agent, they secured the services of the associate extension poultryman, Mr. J. C. Taylor, to show them how to tattoo the birds. After they had become familiar with the use of the machine, they tattooed their own flocks, charging each boy for the ink required and for the use of the equipment. A small profit was made on each flock tattooed, and as a result the machine was soon paid for. It is now the property of the chapter and is available to any member who applies to the state police for a registration number. At present, in addition to caring for the tattooing of the flocks of its own members, the chapter is adding to its treasury by tattooing flocks for farmers who desire the service.

Commenting on the results of this work, the teacher of agriculture, Mr. C. B. Davenport, recently said: "Naturally we don't know whether the boys would have continued to lose poultry if the birds had not been tattooed. We do know, however, that since securing this protection, not one loss has occurred, and the boys are convinced that their protection has been secured very cheaply."

California Chapter Aids City and Own Treasury, with Tree Plot

THE Future Farmer Chapter at El Centro, California, is carrying on a project that is proving very much worth while, both as a community service activity and from a financial standpoint. This project is the growing of palo verde trees to be used in a tree-planting campaign in El Centro.

Last May, just before the close of school, the chapter was approached by the secretary of the local chamber of commerce, with a proposition that the chamber would purchase from the F. F. A. chapter, at 10 cents each, all palo verde trees which the boys were able to grow during the school year 1934-35. The nursery beds were prepared by the boys, and the seeds planted the last week in May.

In spite of a very severe drouth in the Imperial valley, these trees have done unusually well, as they now range from 4 to 7 feet in height. The drouth had previously caused the death of hundreds of pepper and other shade trees in El Centro. Under present arrangements the chamber of commerce is purchasing 450 trees from the chapter, to donate to the city. These trees are being planted along the curbing of the city, to replace those which died this past summer. In addition, the chamber is selling at 10 cents each the remainder of the palo verde trees to

anyone in town wishing to purchase them for the beautification of his home.

The campaign to plant palo verde trees in El Centro was started two years ago when the chamber bought a few trees grown by a high school boy. This campaign was frowned upon by a local nurseryman, as he felt it would cut into his business, but he has since found and admitted that the interest in home beautification created by the palo verde tree campaign has been a big boon to his business, as it has enabled him to sell a great many ornamentals which he otherwise could not have disposed of.

It looks as if the present supply of 1,500 trees will soon be disposed of; so the boys are getting to work immediately and planting more trees which will be offered for sale next spring. The project will net the chapter treasury almost \$150.

The Work Habit

THE reason many brilliant men fail is because they depend too much on their brilliance and not enough on work.

Let a star performer make a half-dozen large sales without great exertion and he will tell himself that only inferior people have to work hard. So he reports for work at ten instead of eight and leaves at four. His sales fall off, but he tells himself that he will make up for the dull days with a big order before the end of the month. He reasons that he always can put on pressure, that there is no sense in weakening his courage by worry.

By the time he wakes up, or is wakened up, the habit of sloth has penetrated his system.

Meanwhile, an ordinary plugger, who makes the rounds of his trade as unimaginatively as an old milk horse, improves his position each year by sheer force of industry and dependability.

The Philosophy of the New Deal in Its Relation to Agriculture

(Continued from page 120)

slack, for they possess the best lands and are the best equipped. Upwards of two million of the farm families do not have the resources of land or the opportunity to produce and sell products so as to achieve a good standard of living.

Now, it would be desirable if better opportunities could be provided for these people so as to make it possible for them to have a cash income and to improve their standards. The desirability of this has a chance of realization because we have an important movement under way in this country which is not fully realized. It is the tendency of industry to seek more decentralized location. Many industries are definitely bound for location in the country. These industries will require workers.

There is a strong possibility that this will make possible the development of a new kind of community, a planned rural-industrial community,

through which will be developed a new pattern of life for many of these people—a pattern of life not entirely rural, nor entirely urban.

These people will have opportunities to live on small tracts of land and to gain many of the advantages of a rural life and to avoid the many disadvantages which go with congestion in the cities. They will be able to have gardens, some fruit trees, possibly poultry and a cow, and a better place to raise families.

At the same time it is improbable that these people will attempt agricultural production on a commercial basis. It is unlikely that they could hope to compete with established commercial agricultural production with the small plants and limited time they will have to devote to their land.

Commercial family agriculture has, I believe, nothing to fear from this development, which offers so many possibilities for the improvement of the standards of family life for people who work in industry. Possibly there will be a movement of some folks from the cities to this type of community.

Because the old frontiers are gone, where surplus farm population found an opportunity to apply itself, this new pattern of life may be the new frontier of the future towards which excess populations on the farm may move without losing so many of the fundamental values of rural life which we too often fail to appreciate.

The philosophy of the New Deal for agriculture is based on the necessity for the closest possible recognition of forces which have a profound bearing on agriculture and an appreciation of the need for action in adjusting ourselves to these changes—plus the will to act.

Thus far, operations under the Adjustment Act have brought about a material increase in the economic welfare of farmers and a marked stimulation in the ability of farmers to purchase industrial products. The flow of income to agricultural areas resulting from these operations has been a stabilizing influence on business generally since passage of the Act, and it has been very helpful during the summer of 1934 when, without the support of farm buying, the slackening industrial activity might otherwise have resulted in a far worse fall in retail sales and general business activity than actually occurred. We have now come to a point in the Adjustment program where the greater part of the excessive surpluses has been eliminated. The drought resulted in a reduction in available supplies of many commodities far in excess of that which anyone could have anticipated a year ago.

The present problem of agricultural adjustment is to find the most effective means of seeing that the production of each major product is in reasonably close adjustment to the current ability of consumers in the United States and of our foreign customers who still remain to buy that production. To maintain adjustment so that supply is quite well balanced with demand makes possible an expansion in some production next year. Perhaps

yields during the next cropping season will be high, and the current ability of consumers here and abroad to buy those products will not increase materially. That might necessitate a further downward adjustment in 1936.

On the other hand, there is hope that the ability of consumers to buy farm products will be increased. It is in that direction that we must look. If demand can be pushed upward and farmers and city dwellers alike can enjoy a continuous rise in living standards, it will be easy enough for farmers to adjust continually their production to a rising level of demand for their products.

We will face an acute danger at any time that we move in the direction of making it impossible for farmers to have machinery necessary for them to keep in continuous adjustment with national and world economic factors, for this is a dynamic world and today's picture may be entirely changed a year from now, or even within a shorter time. Certainly we cannot afford to abandon our ship—the farms of America—to the forces of drift.

We have substantial evidence that the farmers of America have an intelligent realization of the problems they face, growing out of the uncertainties of international trade and the inequalities between the purchasing power of farms and farm crops. They have also demonstrated their capacity to cooperate in meeting squarely these problems in the democratic tradition.

Our Cover

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sey cattle. Other farm activities include: 30 head of sheep, 5 head of horses, 30 acres corn, 15 acres oats, 12 acres wheat, 45 acres hay, and 3 acres truck. Donald bought a stallion this past summer and is adding to the farm profits by using it for breeding purposes.

Donald, not being married, lives on the home farm with his father and mother. He is the only son and has but one sister. He is active in the work of the local chapter, and aids the boys in their agricultural work. His work on the farm is bringing him recognition as an adult worker. Present indications are that he will remain in the community as a progressive farmer.

Part-time Classes in Agriculture

(Continued from page 124)

In Missouri our supervised practice program with the part-time group will be one of assisting these boys to make necessary adjustments in their farming operations, to secure farms of their own, and at this particular time much assistance can be given to establishing them on good land through the use of credit from the Federal Land Bank.

In practically all of the reports made by the men in the fall conferences, farm management, including the use of credit and economics, seemed to be of major importance for this particular group of boys.

Possibly we should be more concerned with the boy out of school who has never had the opportunity of receiving instruction in vocational agriculture, but to me where the number of former vocational agriculture students is sufficiently large, we can render a far more effective service because:

These boys have had some training and will make greater progress as a result of advanced instruction.

They are at an age, having been out of school several years, to appreciate and use this information immediately.

They would make ideal members for an alumni chapter of F. F. A.

It is with this group that rural leadership may be developed, and with their assistance the Future Farmers given capable guidance.

These boys should be encouraged to take advantage and participate in the various school activities—both social and recreational. Seemingly, what they need at this time is encouragement, and we should meet that responsibility—of guidance, offering technical training, and individual development.

Dr. Warren once said that some people are born at the right place, others at the right time, while some are born at the wrong place or the wrong time. I am certain that these boys who are going into farming on the better soil types were born at the right time. We should assist them in farming at the right place and make their adjustments according to present and future economic conditions. The situation is certainly at hand. It is being discussed by the President, by congressmen, by educators, and by other leaders. I heartily recommend to you the splendid report on the "out-of-school farm youth," recently issued by the Vocational Division of the Office of Education. It is of special value at this most opportune time.

The Problem of Out-of-School Farm Youth

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civic, and recreational manner. They can't do it by teaching school from eight till four and going home to be by themselves. If all the faculty of any school would show to the young men and women of the community that the school house should be the social and recreational as well as the educational center, there would be more civic pride in our rural communities and less crime.

After we have convinced our young men and women of our rural sections that we want them, then we should set up for them the instruction they say they need, on the general outline as set up by A. F. Wileden of the University of Wisconsin:

1. Vocational choice together with occupational adjustment and planning.
2. Family anticipation, including home planning and mate selection.
3. Personality development and opportunity for self expression.
4. Adaptation to the life of the community and the state.

